

dece, West Point, Stephens, a coastwise passenger vessel; the Dutch steamer *Blomendijk*; and the Norwegian steamer *Christian Knudsen*. Passengers from the Stephens and crews of the other ships were rescued by American destroyers.

Several previous reports of U-boats operating off the coast of the United States have been proved to be without foundation. Following the rumor of a German raider off Nantucket Lightship the day after America declared a state of war existed with Germany there have been several successive reports, all of which were later found to have been chiefly the product of nervous imaginations.

Floating debris, whales and buoys were among the things responsible for submarine "scares." Besides these there were rumors that the United States destroyer *Smith* had narrowly escaped disaster at the hands of a German torpedo when only a few miles distant from New York city.

The last of such rumors were about the middle of August, when incoming vessels reported a flotilla of raiders and U-boats in the middle Atlantic and even further west. One of these reports was in the effect that a steaming tug, as a sailing vessel was lying in wait off our shores.

Capital Lacka Confirmation.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—The Navy Department tonight had no confirmation of reports of a hostile submarine off the North Atlantic coast.

The only information it had was the statement of a British merchant captain that his ship had received an R O S call from another vessel, saying she was attacked by a U-boat, as forwarded by naval officers to whom the captain reported.

An officer was immediately sent from Washington to investigate and naval stations and shipping yards were instructed to keep a close watch for any raider.

FAILS TO PREVENT PACIFIC STRIKES

Conference of Ship Builders and Employees Ends Without Settlement.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 15.—Negotiations between the conference committee of the California Metal Trades Association, the unionization of employers, and the Iron Trades Council, composed of twenty-five unions, in an effort to avert a threatened strike of approximately 25,000 ironworkers and shipyard employees here next Monday, were abruptly broken off late today without a settlement.

2,000 WORKERS QUIT.

Wooden Shipyards in Northwest Partly Tied Up.

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 15.—Union employees of wooden shipyards on the Willamette and Columbia rivers at Portland, Vancouver, Wash.; St. Helena, Ore.; and Astoria, Ore., struck today for higher pay and the closed shop. Reports indicate about 2,000 men laid down their tools in the various yards. Some yards closed, while others continued to operate with reduced forces.

Employers are pushing ahead with the idea of operating regardless of the strike, confident they have enough labor to continue the work with little delay. On the way are 100 men from the yards and employers said today they were sure the Government would see to it that no steps would be allowed to be taken to prevent carry over the projects with non-union help.

The strike decision was taken contrary to instructions from the international officers of the unions, who appealed to the men to wait until the Government had acted on the question of advances in the wage scale.

RELiance ON UNIONS.

Shipping Board Expects Compliance With Wage Agreement.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—The Shipping Board is depending on the national heads of the Metal Trades Union to control shipyard strikes at Portland and elsewhere on the Pacific coast pending investigation by the Shipping Labor Adjustment Board.

Under an informal agreement made with the union heads by the Shipping Board and the Navy Department no strikes were to be called until after the adjustment board had tried to bring about a settlement. Members of the Shipping Board are of the opinion that members of the union on the Pacific coast have not been fully acquainted with the terms of the agreement and that strikes generally will not be called when union leaders have made the situation clear.

At San Francisco, where 25,000 men have threatened to strike Monday, the situation is complicated because many of the workers are not shipyard employees and the agreement does not include adjustment of their grievances. These men, however, threaten to carry out with them many shipyard metal workers.

SHIP LAUNCHED BY NUMBER.

Freighter Built by Fore River Company Government Craft.

QUINCY, Mass., Sept. 15.—For the first time in the history of the Fore River Ship Building Corporation, a steamship was launched here today by number instead of name. The vessel, an oil burning freighter of 1,100 tons gross, was christened as "No. 265," this being due to the fact that she was taken over by the Government while under construction for the Luckenbach Line.

Mrs. George C. Hand of New Bedford, wife of William H. Hand, Jr., district officer of the Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation, broke the customary bottle of wine as the ship entered the water, but no crowds were around, as in other times, to witness the ceremony.

M. Berkowitz

Tailleur Pour Dames
Habits Furs

9 West 46th St.

Smart tailored frocks, suits and coats for all occasions

MADE TO ORDER
at less cost than ready to wears.

Now showing high grade and distinctive materials and models.

Compare the values in our workmanship before you order for fall.

NEW GROUND LOST BY CROWN PRINCE

French Retake Trenches That Germans Had Captured Earlier in Day.

FLANDERS FIRE HEAVY

British Improve Positions in Skirmish Slightly East of Westhoek.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—The Crown Prince seems to be "unlucky" in his sector of the battlefield in France. Apparently he has no extraordinary difficulty in taking a French trench occasionally here and there, but he is wholly unable to keep what he takes. He maintained his record last night and gave up, under French propulsion, almost all of the ground north of Courmies Wood. In the Verdun district, which his troops had captured earlier in the day, in the Champagne two surprise attacks made by the Germans were repulsed.

Not to be outdone the French today came back with a surprise attack of their own in the region of Mont Haut. In the same district, but the result was different. The official statement issued by the French War Office tonight reads:

Quite violent artillery actions occurred in the sector of Moulin de Lafaux and on the right bank of the Meuse. In Champagne we successfully carried out a surprise attack on German trenches in the region of Mont Haut. We destroyed an observatory and a number of shelters and brought back about ten prisoners.

On September 13 and 14 four German airplanes were brought down by our pilots in aerial engagements.

German Storm Height.

The German War Office report says:

On the east bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) after short artillery preparation, portions of the battle tried Baden Division stormed the heights east of the Chaume Wood. The enemy offered stubborn resistance, which was broken by the battle of the Meuse. More than 300 prisoners were taken. The sanguinary losses of the enemy were increased further because of their fruitless counter attacks.

Berlin reports also that after artillery preparation which reached drum fire intensity the British this morning attacked the German positions at St. Julien, on the Flanders front, northeast of Ypres.

The British statement says the position in this region was improved and the German counter attack was repulsed.

The official report from British headquarters in France to-night reads:

A successful local operation was carried out this afternoon by a London regiment north of Inverness Copse. A German strong point was captured with thirty-six prisoners and a machine gun at little cost to our troops. This afternoon the Durham troops successfully raided the enemy's trenches west of Cherisy and captured twenty-two prisoners. Our casualties were slight.

Early this morning a raid was attempted by the enemy in the neighborhood of Neuve Chapelle, but was repulsed by the Portuguese troops.

Three enemy airplanes were shot down, one falling behind our lines, and six were driven down out of control. Four of ours are missing.

BRITISH DENY PEACE.

No Meeting of Financiers to Outline Terms.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—The British Government has no knowledge of any meeting of financiers recently in Switzerland to discuss international finance and terms of peace, an official statement issued today announced. If any British subjects took part in such a meeting legal proceedings will be taken against them. The statement reads:

"Reports have appeared in the British and neutral press to the effect that a meeting of financiers recently took place in Switzerland to consider the effects of the war on international finance and to discuss terms of peace. It is said that British subjects entered into relations with subjects of the enemy Powers for this purpose.

"The British Government has no knowledge of any such meeting and no passports have been issued to British subjects for this or any similar purpose. In the event of any information reaching the Government that there has been any meeting with such an object between enemy subjects and British subjects appropriate legal proceedings will be taken to punish the offenders."

ARCHBISHOP TO HEAD REGENCY OF POLAND

Count Szeptyce-Szeptycki Expected to Be Chairman of Newly Formed Council.

LANDTAG MAY FOLLOW

Right to Conclude International Agreements to Come After Peace.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 15.—A decree published at Lublin and Warsaw on September 12 transfers the supreme authority in Poland to a regency council of three members appointed by the monarchs of the occupying Powers, says a Vienna message to-day. All the decrees of the council must be countersigned by a responsible Premier. The legislative power is to be exercised by the council. The Polish proclamation, the Vienna advices state, says that the first task of the council will be the appointment of a Premier, which must be sanctioned by the Teutonic Powers. The Premier immediately will organize the ministries transferred to the Polish authorities. The State Council will be reviewed with increased authority. Its task will be a legislative one and its voice in this respect will be decisive.

The content of the occupying Powers, the decree provides, is necessary for all governmental affairs the administration of which has not yet been handed over to the Polish authorities. The right to appoint international representatives and conclude international agreements may be exercised by the Polish authorities only after termination of the occupation.

Emperor William, according to the telegram, has sent to the Governor-General at Warsaw an autograph letter of the same purport as one sent by Emperor Charles to the Archbishop of Lemberg forecasting the new order of affairs in Poland.

Count Szeptyce-Szeptycki, the Archbishop of Lemberg, who is expected to be the chairman of the new Polish regency council, says:

"In agreement with the German Emperor I intend steadfastly to continue the consolidation of the Polish State in accordance with the manifesto of April 5, 1916, so that that country may be liberated from its heavy yoke and may attain so far as the war situation permits the development of the general cultural and economic forces necessary to its political structure.

"Owing to the hard war times it has not yet been possible for a Polish King to be elected, but the Polish people, as bearers of the old, honorable and glorious crown of the Jagellons again to enter the country's capital, and for the people's representatives, founded on democratic principles, to meet at Warsaw. But now, according to the wishes of the nation, the organs of the Polish State will be created and endowed with legislative and executive powers."

STRAW HATS NOW IN DISCARD.

'Lid' Dealers Rejoice as They Wallop Pay Envelopes.

Probably the only persons in New York who went to bed last night and slept the sweet peace of perfect contentment were the hat dealers, because yesterday marked the passing of the straw hat for 1917, and the hat dealers spent a perfectly gorgeous day taking wallop on pay envelopes and bank accounts. Since the cost of the average hat is some 50 cents more this year than it was last, and since everybody has to have a hat, or at least think he does, nobody need wonder why the hat dealers were so happy and contented.

Although no one has yet found a satisfactory answer to the question of why is a derby, it is a fact that a great many of those hats were sold in various parts of the city yesterday—at higher prices than they brought last year. However, New York fancies soft hats more than it does derbies, but soft hats cost more this year, too.

So do caps.

The war is to blame.

DIPLOMATS TO SHIFT POSTS.

Van Rappard Going to Madrid and Van Royen Coming Here.

THE HAGUE, Sept. 15.—Chevalier W. L. F. C. van Rappard, the Netherlands minister to the United States, is reported here, is destined to replace J. H. van Royen at Madrid.

As van Royen is the prospective new Minister at Washington this would simply amount to an exchange of diplomatic posts.

CHICAGO, COAL SHY. FEARS JACK FROST

Council of Defence Headed by 500,000 Tons Ordered.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

CHICAGO, Sept. 15.—Chicago is in the grip of a coal famine and various agencies got into action today to relieve the situation and make ready for the next frost. The furnaces are expected to be started within the next fortnight. Chairman Samuel Insull of the State Council of Defence announced he will call a meeting for early next week of the advisory committee of the food, fuel and conservation committee of the council, of which J. Ogden Armour is chairman.

Big coal operators and presidents of railroads are on the advisory board. It is impracticable that coal be shipped here at once. The coal strikes in Illinois have added to the seriousness of the situation.

Eastern buyers are in the Western market trying to buy any kind of coal. Users of screenings are trying to buy prepared coal. There was on the market yesterday an order from one concern for 500,000 tons of screenings and no one had a single car to sell.

AUSTRIANS RESIST WITH DOGGED FURY

Italian Victory on Mountain Continues to Increase in Importance.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—The great battle of Monte San Gabriele still is in progress. Although the decision has been won definitely by the Italians, heavy fighting continues on the slopes of the mountain, where the Austrians hold some strongly fortified posts and trenches. The decision was obtained on the very summit, in an area only a few hundred yards square.

The importance of the Italian victory is becoming better appreciated here, not only on account of the enormous difficulties which have been overcome, but greater than have been encountered on any other front, but because of the intrinsic value of the results obtained. Clearing of the Austrians from the remainder of San Gabriele is a minor operation, although it may be costly here, because of the natural strength of the position. When this work is done only one great obstacle will remain on the Italian front, that is Monte San Gabriele, adjoining San Gabriele on the south and dominated by it.

Possession of Monte San Gabriele also gives the Italian command of the valley leading to Ljubljana, only 35 or 40 miles away, where the mountain barrier ends and the road to Vienna lies. This situation, the most favorable that confronts the Allies on any front, supports the contention of some of the Italian military experts that the war can be ended on the Italian front with a smashing knock-out blow against Germany through Austria, more easily and at less cost in men than it could on either the western or the eastern front.

Prevailing opinion here still clings to the idea that the war will be won on the western front, but serious consideration is being given to the Italian front. In the meantime the Italians are pressing their military operations as if the final decision depended upon them alone.

Official Statements.

The War Office statement issued in Rome to-day says:

There has been artillery activity of noticeable intensity in some sections of the Trentino and Julian fronts. Near Log. in the northern zone of the Bainsizza, Austrians by advancing and receding their line of occupation and captured prisoners. On the Carso the enemy's lines of communication were bombarded by our firemen with about three tons of bombs.

In an aerial combat an enemy airplane was brought down in flames in the Auzza. The pilot was killed. The Austrian headquarters statement says:

Heavy artillery fire continues against our positions on Monte San Gabriele and east of Gorizia.

While clearing our trenches on the mountain slope, Monte San Gabriele we brought in yesterday, during desperate engagements, 23 officers, 335 men and 12 machine guns.

In the Tyrol and in the Carina district torrential rains are hampering the activity.

No Panic Results.

"Although the exploding bombs created horror in the hospital there was not the smallest sign of panic and the work of discovering the wounded and collecting them was begun immediately. Many of the injured had been blown from their cots, some even outside their tents, where they were found tangled up in the ropes.

"The American nurse, although struck in the face by a fragment of steel from the bomb, refused to be relieved and remained at her task courageously to the end. A hospital orderly who worked untiringly was found later to have been struck in the head by a fragment and painfully injured. He had just tied up his head and worked on."

HOSPITAL BOMBED IN PLAYFUL MOOD

Germans Scattered Pfennigs After Deliberate Attack on Harvard Unit.

KNEW OBJECT OF RAID

Red Cross Official Submits First Detailed Account of Teuton Feat.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—The first detailed account of the bombing of a German aeroplane of a base hospital occupied by one of the Harvard units in France on August 21 was received today by cable from Major Grayson M. P. Murphy, Red Cross commissioner to Europe, to Henry P. Davison, chairman of the Red Cross War Council.

The target, according to Major Murphy, was "unmistakable as a hospital, and the German aviator in a deliberate attack scattered a handful of pennies after dropping his fifth and last bomb."

Major Murphy's report shows there were fifteen seconds between the explosion of a bomb some 200 yards away and the dropping of the first bomb on the hospital. That was the only warning.

Work Until Exhausted.

The account reads in part: "A woman nurse and twenty-two patients from the British lines who were under treatment for wounds already received were injured. The aeroplane attack occurred at 11 o'clock at night. Ten seconds sufficed for the dropping of the bombs from the first flying plane and within less than a minute afterward the surgeons of the hospital were at the task of collecting and attending those who had been struck down. For twenty-four hours the work at work in the operating room, one surgeon relieving another when the latter from simple exhaustion could work no longer.

"The hospital, which was on the French coast, had 1,500 beds under canvas in a quadrangle of 500 feet square and was in a district where there were many similar institutions and was unmistakable as a hospital.

"At the time the German aviator flew over the hospital, it was standing at the door of his tent. There had been a brief warning of the presence of a bombing aeroplane in the neighborhood because a quarter of a minute before the sound of exploding bombs was heard from a point perhaps 200 yards from the hospital. This warning sufficed to cause hundreds of the patients to be extinguished immediately, and those who had been under fire before themselves face down on the ground.

"Ten came five explosions in rapid succession in the hospital itself. The first was directly in front of the hospital. The second was to the left, the third to the right, the fourth to the rear and the fifth to the front. The German aviator was standing at the door of his tent. There had been a brief warning of the presence of a bombing aeroplane in the neighborhood because a quarter of a minute before the sound of exploding bombs was heard from a point perhaps 200 yards from the hospital. This warning sufficed to cause hundreds of the patients to be extinguished immediately, and those who had been under fire before themselves face down on the ground.

"The next two fell 100 feet beyond, in a ward in which there were many patients, and the last struck the reception building, causing that it to be destroyed. The German aviator flew too high to be heard, but he left his identity behind him, not only in the bombs he dropped, but in the deliberate handful of pennies he scattered on the hospital as he whirled away.

"Lieut. McGuire, who was in a tent adjoining that of Lieut. Fitzsimons, was struck by three bomb fragments, but was not seriously wounded. His escape was narrow, as there were more than a hundred holes put in his tent. Lieut. Smith was struck in the knee and Lieut. Whidden in the chest while in their tents in the officers' section of the quadrangle. The private soldiers injured were on duty as orderlies in the reception tent and the bomb fell almost upon them. So severely was private Aubrey S. McGee injured that it was necessary to amputate both his legs that night.

"The American nurse, although struck in the face by a fragment of steel from the bomb, refused to be relieved and remained at her task courageously to the end. A hospital orderly who worked untiringly was found later to have been struck in the head by a fragment and painfully injured. He had just tied up his head and worked on."

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SWEDEN STOPS ALL GERMAN MESSAGES

Continued from First Page.

Followed the Government's Attention

He admitted that a grave error had been committed in not exercising control over the contents of the German despatches, but this was the result of putting reliance upon Germany's good faith without the slightest idea that German diplomats would lend themselves to such abuses of a privilege extended to them.

In the Parliamentary elections yesterday the "Immerwaldians" won two seats from the Social Democrats. Results of the elections up to the present show that the Socialist group has forty-eight seats, the Liberal group thirty-seven and the Conservative group thirty. Prior to the elections these seats were represented by forty-three of the Socialist group, twenty-nine Liberals and forty-three Conservatives.

Regarding the charge that the Swedish Foreign Office broke its promise given in 1915 to cease forwarding telegrams to the German Legation in Stockholm, the former Swedish Foreign Minister, resolutely asserts the promise only concerned telegrams between the Legation and Germany. Thus, the newspaper argues, American and English insinuations that information was sent regarding Gen. Pershing's transports are without foundation.

GERMAN PRESS VIEWS.

Luxburg's "Diplomacy" Is Praised and Condemned.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 15.—The Berlin *Tageblatt*, discussing the recall of Count Luxburg, German Minister to Argentina, expresses the hope that the incident will leave no lasting discord, for, it adds, "Public opinion in Argentina will certainly recognize that no one in the German nation desired to wrong Argentina and that the despatches in Argentina have been developed in Germany for this highly developed, brilliant and progressive country."

Light on Pro-Germans.

Herman L. F. Lagercrantz, for several years Swedish Minister to the United States, was called into the consultation with the Government immediately following the Washington revelations. His American friendships and knowledge of American conditions particularly fitted him for the work. Today he received a correspondent of the Associated Press and spoke as follows:

"It must be understood that whatever the sentiments of the different parties in Sweden toward the two belligerent camps, all are inspired by the firm determination to keep Sweden neutral and out of the war. Some of our people are inclined to sympathize with England and particularly with France in the great struggle.

"On the other hand, many of our people, through long and close acquaintance with Germany and by reason of their appreciation of the educational and other features of German life, feel a certain sympathy with Germany—a feeling which, perhaps, is strengthened and partly explained by the position of Sweden between the two great Baltic Powers, Russia and Germany, and by the direction which the policies of the two countries had earlier taken.

"It has been necessary for the Swedish Government to take these two currents of public opinion into consideration, but in all its desire, like that of practically the entire people, has been to preserve an attitude of complete impartiality and neutrality as to both sides of belligerents."

M. Lagercrantz explained the origin of the system for forwarding the despatches, saying that the Government in the beginning had been inspired by the desire to be of service to the belligerent nations generally and that its assistance had been extended to both sides under conditions which were felt to be absolutely permissible and compatible with the strictest neutrality and impartiality. He forwarded despatches for Count von Bernstorff the German Ambassador at Washington, until Secretary Lansing spoke to the Swedish Minister about it and asked him to discontinue this practice. This was done immediately, said M. Lagercrantz, as a matter of course and the same policy would have been followed had the Government's attention been called to the Argentine despatches.

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